

Parallel Sessions B  
B3 – Steps towards the Electronic Library

Friday, September 20, Room D, 11.30

## **Moving towards E-Journals: The Policy and Practice of Consortial Acquisition**

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In 1999, the University of Padua took part in a consortium project (CIPE\*) to acquire electronic-format periodicals from the major European publishing houses, thus making such periodicals available to students, researchers and faculty members. It was the University's scientific libraries that first began to move towards digitisation, having realised that several journals to which the University subscribed were offering free, on-line versions of their issues.

The simultaneous shrinking of economic support available to libraries and the vertiginous rise of the dollar, combined with a general increase in subscription costs, resulted in the decision to cancel subscriptions to paper versions of those journals for which on-line versions were available through consortial acquisition. Most of these subscriptions concerned journals of strategic interest for users and the transitional period from paper- to on-line versions has consequently been particularly critical.

There are a number of aspects to this work that we consider strategic for successful consortium acquisition:

- A shared policy of discontinuing paper versions;
- Development of contract-negotiating skills;
- Integration of electronic resources in University- and local catalogues;
- Evaluation and selection of previous archive systems;
- Marketing the service to academic users.

\*University of:

Ancona, Bologna, Genova, Firenze, Modena, Padova, Parma, Pisa, Siena, Sassari, Venezia Cà Foscari.